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The pastoral letter of the Archbishop of Havana, which has just been issued, assures the Roman Catholics of Cuba that the United States will not injure the church, and he declares the change of sovereignty will result in good to the country.

The social season in the national capital opened this fall nearly a month earlier than usual, in order that the Canadian members of the Anglo-American Joint High Commission, and the ladies of their families by whom they are accompanied, might receive social courtesies from the society leaders of the land.

SENATOR HANNA says that "for the first time in the history of the country our exports of manufactured goods exceed our imports." Then, anyone will naturally ask, Why do we need a 50 per cent. tariff? If we can undersell foreigners in their own markets, what "protection" do our manufacturers need at home?

ADJUTANT GENERAL CORBIN had an ambition to be a member of the Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Club. He doesn't have that ambition any longer, for the reason that the fox didn't want the grapes. He made application for membership but was advised to withdraw it; which he did, preferring withdrawal to blackballing.

WHEAT GOING DOWN.

The general tendency of wheat nowadays is downward, in spite of the fact that all that is put upon the market is at once absorbed either by the millers or by the exporters.

This "bearish" tendency is due, says the New York World, to the conviction that the favorable crop reports from all the great foreign wheat fields are not exaggerated and that therefore the export demand is sure to diminish soon.

Those who are in a position to be informed say that Europe will be able to feed itself in the coming year. If this is true and our home crops are as large as they promise to be, wheat is sure to go much lower before it again rises to the "famine" prices of last winter and spring.

NEWSPAPER CHANGE.

The Times is reliably informed that W. W. Bridgers and J. H. McCutcheon, recently of the Socorro Advertiser, have purchased the afternoon Tribune-Telegraph at El Paso and will take charge of that paper on the first of December. Mr. Jessup, of the Santa Fe New Mexican, will be associated with the new enterprise.

33,000 HEAD OF SHEEP.

We hold, 15 miles south of Anton Chico, which we offer for sale the following in lots to suit purchaser: 15,000 ewes, 10,000 yearling wethers, 8,000 lambs and 200 bucks.

263-4f.

SPENCE BROS.

EDITORIAL PITH.

Jerry Simpson says he is still alive. Of course; he was not running in South Carolina, says the Buffalo Express.

A Cuban paper is quoted as saying: "If it becomes necessary, we can wipe out the American navy just as well as we did the Spanish ships." Just about, observes the Chicago Times-Herald.

In the opinion of the Chicago Record a modern literary critic who can't discover a new and original interpretation of every poem Rudyard Kipling writes, simply can't hope to have any standing in the profession.

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle says of John W. Young's scheme, the talk of farming out the Philippines to a syndicate is too absurd to receive serious attention. The American people and government will not relegate responsibilities of that character to any syndicate or trust.

This, from the Indianapolis Journal, appears to be one on Mr. Richard Harding Tesla. That paper says when Job was asked: "Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing waters or a way for the lightning of thunder?" it is not recorded that answer was made, but is the same question were addressed to Nikola Tesla, he would promptly reply, "I, Lord." And to the query, "Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go and say unto thee, 'here we are,'" he would answer: "Yea, verily, that can I." But Job, it must be remembered, was a modest man.

THE RIBERA CAMP.

Duncan A. McDonald, son of J. D. McDonald, whose grading outfit was in the city a few weeks ago but which is now divided and at work near Blackwell and near Ribera, in this county, was in the city today and had a talk with an Optic man. Young McDonald says that they have about twenty men working at Blackwell and about forty working near Ribera, and that there is not a case of sickness of any kind in either. He had just inspected both camps before coming to the city. As to the three men who came from the camp near Ribera and developed smallpox after reaching the city, he stated that the first had not been in the employ of his father for some time when he left Ribera, and the others had called for their time and been paid off before it was known that they were sick. All now employed have been forbidden to come to Las Vegas, but if any man sees fit to leave the employment of the elder McDonald, of course neither he nor his sons can say where they shall or shall not go. E. W. Grant, resident civil engineer for the railroad company, at the same time assured the reporter that the railroad company is doing and will continue to do every thing in their power to prevent infected persons from traveling on their trains, either as passengers or hams.

PROTECTION OF VACCINATION.

Reproduced from The Optic of August 27th, this Year, in Response to Many Requests.

The first case of vaccination, which was made for purpose of experiment, was on May 14, 1796.

Of the protection against smallpox which vaccination affords, it may be said that from 1721 to 1792, before the discovery of vaccine lymph, a period of of seventy-one years, Boston, Mass., had three severe and fatal epidemics of smallpox, one about over twenty-three years. Since the employment of vaccination, now a little over 100 years, there has been no serious epidemic of smallpox in Boston.

In England from 1750 to 1800, out of every 1,000 deaths ninety-six were from smallpox; from 1800 to 1850, out of each 1,000 deaths but thirty-five were from smallpox. In the German states, before vaccination, 66.5 in the 1,000 died of smallpox; after vaccination came into use the number fell to 7.25. In the Prussian army of 300,000 men from 1876 to 1885, when every soldier was vaccinated on enlistment, there was one death from smallpox; in the French army, of an equal number, during the same time and no more exposed than were the others, but with a less rigid rule of vaccination, the deaths from smallpox were on an average of fifty-four per year.

Lest it be said that the decrease in number of deaths has arisen from the medical fraternity's improved method of treating those affected with the disease, the case of Zurich, Switzerland, comes prominently to the front. In 1883 compulsory vaccination was suspended there, and here are the official figures of smallpox deaths in 1,000: 1881 7; 1882, 0; 1883, 8. Then came suspension of compulsion with: 1884, 11.45; 1885, 52; 1886, 85. Against such figures doubt of the protective power of vaccination cannot be entertained for a moment. Other and equally confirming statistics could be given, but these must suffice.

But there are other interesting statistics in connection with vaccination and smallpox. Marson's statistics, based on 5,000 cases of smallpox in the London hospital, give the following: Of the unvaccinated the deaths were 35 per cent; those having one good vaccine cicatrix, 6.4 per cent; one indifferent cicatrix, 16.7 per cent; having two good cicatrices, 3.7 per cent; two indifferent, 11.7 per cent; having three good cicatrices, 3.7 per cent; three indifferent, 7.4 per cent; having four or more good, 2.7 per cent, indifferent, 4.8 per cent.

These things appear from these statistics: Vaccination is a wonderful preventive of smallpox; even where it does not entirely obviate the possibility of attack, it reduces the death rate to a very small percentage; the efficacy of the vaccination should frequently be determined by medical examination, and the vaccination renewed when necessary, and especially during epidemics.

CHAMBERS GETS LIFE SENTENCE.

The Clayton Hold-up's Case Passed on by Justice McFie This Morning.

J. D. Chambers, a Texan, convicted in the U. S. district court of complicity in the Clayton mail robbery, was today sentenced by Justice J. R. McFie to imprisonment for life. On September 6, 1895, Chambers and a companion entered the Denver & Gulf depot at Clayton, held up Agent J. L. Wright, forced him to carry the mail sacks out of town and got away with some \$800. Robert Mansker, one of the sheriff's posse who went in pursuit, was shot in the heel. This is Chambers' third penitentiary sentence. When asked by the court if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed upon him Chambers replied: "Nothing—you know my record."

This is, THE OPTIC believes, the first instance in the history of New Mexico where a life sentence has followed conviction in such cases. Here is the law on the subject from section 5,472 U. S. Revised Statutes:

"Any person who shall rob any carrier, agent, or other person intrusted with the mail, of such mail, or any part thereof, shall be punishable by imprisonment at hard labor for not less than five years and not more than ten years; and if convicted a second time of a like offense, or if, in effecting such robbery the first time, the robber shall wound the person having the custody of the mail, or put his life in jeopardy by the use of dangerous weapons, such offender shall be punishable by imprisonment at hard labor for the term of his natural life."

DELEGATES NAMED.

About 100 citizens have been appointed by Gov. M. A. Otero delegates to the Farmer's National Congress which convenes at Fort Worth, Texas, on December 6. Among those appointed are:

Charles Wright, B. F. Forsythe, John Thornhill, Perry Hogsett, Nicolas Cordova, F. A. Manzanares, R. E. Twitchell, N. M. Chaffin, Saul Rosenthal, M. L. Cooley, Margarito Romero, Jose Albino Baca, George Hartman, A. Well, J. M. Hernandez, T. B. Mills, Hugh London, of Las Vegas; Paul St. Vrain, C. A. Strong, T. J. Walton, S. Vorensburg, Juan Navarra, Joe Doherty, Macario Gallegos, Rafael Romero, Emelio Ortiz, Adolfo Branch, Luciano Gallegos, of Mora.

Other localities are in the list as follows: Rociada, H. E. Blake and Chas. F. Raulph; Watrous, R. G. Head, H. D. Reinken, Wm. Kroenig; La Cueva, D. C. Deuel; Raton, Charles Springer, A. C. Voorhees, J. W. Dwyer, J. J. Shuler, M. D., D. W. Stevens; Maxwell City, A. J. Dawson; Springer, M. W. Mills, Henry Sturgis.

Men don't put on airs when they're together, like the women do, because they know that no matter how much they may fool each other they have to go home to their wives afterward.